

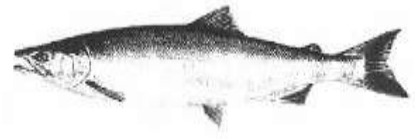
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #31

The Outer, Eastern, Southern and Kamishak Bay districts will close to purse seine harvest for the 2013 season at 12:01 AM on Sunday, September 15. The set gillnet fishery in the Southern District remains open through September 30 as per 5AAC 21.310. There have been no commercial deliveries reported since August 31 for purse seine, and August 20 for set gillnet. Subsistence harvest in the Port Chatham and Windy Bay subdistricts closed on August 1, however subsistence harvest remains open through September 30 in the Port Graham and Dogfish Bay (Koyuktoalik) subdistricts as per 5AAC 01.560.

The preliminary estimate of the 2013 Lower Cook Inlet Area commercial salmon harvest based on current fish ticket data is 2.5 million salmon. The harvest was composed of 2.2 million pink, 184,000 sockeye, 54,000 chum, 5,600 coho, and 391 Chinook salmon. The harvest was comprised of 2.2 million (89%) commercial common property fishery (CPF) fish, and 266,000^a (11%) hatchery cost recovery and broodstock fish.

Southern District

The 2013 preseason commercial common property harvest forecast for natural production in the Southern District was 1,100 sockeye and 40,000 pink salmon. As a result of cost recovery requirements, hatchery releases from previous years at Leisure Lake, Hazel Lake, Tutka Bay, Port Graham and English Bay were not anticipated to contribute to the 2013 commercial common property harvest. The commercial salmon fishing season in the Southern District began on Monday, June 3. Purse seine harvest for the 2013 season was 140 Chinook, 28,032 sockeye, 1,902 coho, 21,488 pink and 265 chum salmon. This compares to a previous 10-year harvest average of 103 Chinook, 83,869 sockeye, 913 coho, 34,681 pink, and 263 chum salmon. The set gillnet harvest was 250 Chinook, 38,393 sockeye, 3,616 coho, 1,813 pink, and 2,698 chum salmon. The previous 10-year harvest average for this gear type is 427 Chinook, 26,941 sockeye, 1,128 coho, 4,086 pink and 1,906 chum salmon. Preliminary estimates show that pink salmon escapement in index streams was above the midpoint of the cumulative sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 59,700–178,500 fish. The weir at the English Bay River passed 12,644 sockeye salmon. This was within the SEG of 6,000–13,500 for this system.

Outer District

The 2013 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Outer District was 10,200 sockeye, 63,000 pink, and 47,100 chum salmon. The commercial salmon fishing season began in this district on Monday, July 22. Overall harvest from 11 permit holders was 119 sockeye, 2.0 million pink and 49,062 chum salmon. This harvest compares to previous 10-year averages of 12,451 sockeye, 372,368 pink and 28,899 chum salmon and is the largest on record for pink salmon from this district. The next largest occurred in 1979 where 62 permit holders harvested 1.9 million pink salmon. Preliminary escapement survey indices for chum salmon were above the midpoint of the SEG range of 12,850–34,600. Pink salmon were in the upper end of their SEG range of 54,500–237,200. Aerial surveys of Desire Lake documented 8,400 sockeye salmon. This is below the SEG range of 8,800–15,200 fish for Desire Lake. The Delight Lake weir counted 5,961 sockeye salmon. This is below the SEG range of 7,500–17,650 fish for this system.

Eastern District

Due to minimal returns in the last 10 years, no wild stock sockeye or pink salmon were forecast to be available for commercial common property harvest from the Eastern District in 2013. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) forecasted a total return of 70,666 sockeye salmon to Resurrection Bay facilities. Total saltwater harvest from this district was 41,410 sockeye salmon with all of these fish harvested by CIAA for

cost recovery purposes. This compares to a previous 10-year average commercial harvest of 71,019 sockeye salmon for common property and cost recovery harvests combined from Resurrection Bay. Escapement through the weir at Bear Creek (12,605) was sufficient to meet the “desired inriver return” of 5,620–13,220 sockeye salmon. This goal is the combination of the SEG (700–8,300) as well as the estimated 4,920 sockeye salmon required for broodstock for the CIAA sockeye salmon program at Trail Lakes Hatchery. Aerial surveys of Aialik Lake documented an escapement of 3,530 sockeye salmon, falling 170 salmon below the SEG range of 3,700–8,000 fish for this system.

Kamishak Bay District

The 2013 preseason commercial forecast for the Kamishak Bay District was 77,000 sockeye and 37,400 chum salmon. CIAA forecasted a return of 21,675 sockeye salmon to the Kirschner Lake remote release site of which all would be required for cost recovery. Total common property harvest from this district was 33,154 sockeye, 314 pink and 2,357 chum salmon. In addition, 8,288 sockeye salmon were harvested by CIAA from the Kirschner Lake Special Harvest Area (SHA) for cost recovery purposes. This compares to a previous 10-year average of 70,343 sockeye, 26,947 pink and 53,445 chum salmon harvested in the common property fishery. Preliminary escapement survey indices for both chum and pink salmon show escapement levels in the lower end of their respective SEG ranges of 65,550–141,600 for chum, and 25,950–203,400 for pink salmon. Video enumeration at Chenik Lake documented 9,626 sockeye salmon. This is within the SEG range of 3,500–14,000 fish. Video documentation of returns to Mikfik Lake for this species counted 3,972 fish. This is below the SEG range of 6,300–12,150 sockeye salmon for this lake.

Table 1. Lower Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest based on preliminary fish ticket data, 2013.

District (or hatchery)	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Southern District	12	140	28,032	1,902	21,488	265	51,827
Outer District	11	1	119	53	2,015,105	49,062	2,064,340
Eastern District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kamishak Bay District	5	0	33,154	0	314	2,357	35,825
Purse seine total	12	141	61,305	1,955	2,036,907	51,684	2,151,992
Southern District	19	250	38,393	3,616	1,813	2,698	46,770
Set gillnet total	19	250	38,393	3,616	1,813	2,698	46,770
Commercial common property total		391	99,698	5,571	2,038,720	54,382	2,198,762
Tutka Bay Hatchery							
cost recovery- Tutka Lagoon SHA			13,138		39,153	2	52,293
cost recovery- China Poot SHA			8,755				8,755
cost recovery- Halibut Cove SHA					8,864		8,864
broodstock + excess- Tutka Lagoon SHA			5,459		134,233		139,692
broodstock- Port Graham SHA					11,058 ^a		---
Trail Lakes Hatchery							
cost recovery- Resurrection Bay SHA			41,410			18	41,428
cost recovery- Kirschner Lake SHA			8,288				8,288
cost recovery- Bear Lake SHA			2,033				2,033
broodstock- Bear Lake SHA			3,606	na			3,606
donated- Bear Lake SHA			1,129	na			1,129
Hatchery total		0	83,818	na	182,250	20	266,088
LCI Total Harvest		391	183,516	5,571	2,220,970	54,402	2,464,850

^a 11,058 pink salmon were harvested in the common property fishery in the Port Graham Subdistrict and sold live to CIAA for use as broodstock. These fish were reported as CPF harvests and are included in the CPF total harvest for purse seine in the Southern District. These fish are *not* included in the hatchery total harvest.

The next commercial salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Thursday, May 1, 2014.

Announcements, inseason harvest data, escapement data as well as maps are available at the following web address:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>